

# National Anti-Slavery Standard.

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National Anti-Slavery Standard.  
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The Spirit of the South.

LETTER FROM ROBERT BARNWELL RHETT.

From The Charleston Mercury.

We surrender our columns, this morning, to this able and striking letter. It reviews the past history of Federal legislation, exhibits the consequences of our past misdeeds, and clearly shows the course which the Southern people ought to pursue in the future. The one great principle which Mr. Rett's exposition enforces is, that to strike at the right time is to strike home; is, that to strike by the forelock, is to save ourselves, as a people, from the lamentable discovery that he is bald-headed. We commend this letter to the earnest consideration of our readers. It is history, rather than discussion; and if we cannot learn from the lessons of the past, it is vain to expect that we shall be taught by the threatenings of the future.

Mr. Buchanan, we believe, is elected President, and we do not that he will do all that the powers of his high office permit him, to avenge the sectional strife through which he has made his way. It still stands undiminished; and the mere fact that it has almost succumbed in casting its lurid flames upon the temple of our common Confederacy is sufficient to show us that we have no safety in this Union. We may linger in it a few years longer, but always at our peril. The hope of peace, of good understanding, has all passed away.

Henceforth we are necessarily two peoples—the North and the South. The Democratic party have presented to the country a Northern man, no way identified with peculiar Southern interests; a man who could raise against himself no prejudices on the part of the North; and yet it has depended upon the almost unanimous vote of the South whether this man, great in talents, famous by a long life of noble statesmanship, irreproachable in morals and manners, should be elected to the Presidency over an adventurer, without experience in politics, with a doubtful reputation even as an explorer, and a still more doubtful one as a man, whose sole qualification as a candidate was that he was willing to embody the sentiment of the hostility of the North to the South. What conclusion can we draw from this result, except that we are on the verge of revolution or destruction? For ourselves, we prefer the former.

[Mr. Rett's letter, which is addressed to the Governor of South Carolina, will all wail high in this journal. We omit some of the least important passages.—EDS. STANDARD.]

I have thus endeavoured, by a very brief review of past events, to show your Excellency that, for forty years, the Northern States have assailed the South alternately on the tariff and slavery. Checked on the one, they have turned to the other. \* \* \* With our Northern people, especially, it was absurd to expect any other result than that which has occurred. They are a great, but essentially a domineering, fanatical and avaricious people. The basis of their institutions is utterly antagonistic to the institution of slavery. To have the power of taxation in their hands, and to use it to enrich and aggrandize their section of the Union at the expense of the South, was a master of course; and once let it be understood, by the consolidation of the government, that they are responsible for the extension or existence of slavery, and their interference and hostility can hardly be condemned. We should remember that they are a very different people from ourselves. Difference in pursuits and modes of industry makes a marked difference in the characteristics of a people. A mercantile or manufacturing people are very different from an agricultural people. Accustomed to live and act in crowds, the latter are more excitable and brutal. But the great difference between the North and the South results from the institution of slavery. It is this which has made two sections in the Union, and has raised a bitter rivalry between them. Sectional ambition has been added to interest and fanaticism, in bringing the North upon the South. It is very useless to endeavour to ignore this rivalry. Wherever republics have been united in a confederacy it has existed; and has been the grand cause of their dissolution. I assert, with fear of contradiction, that never before has there existed, in any confederacy, ancient or modern, a more powerful combination of rival interests and feelings than those which now exist in the United States between the two great sections of the Union. The combination of motives thus resulting from interest, fanaticism and rivalry, must work out their natural consequences. They drive the North upon the South with a certainty as ushering the last of spoils and plunders carried the northern bodies of Europe, in former times, down upon the plains of Italy.

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Men are always prone to look at proximate causes, which are seldom the controlling causes of events. The great evil under which the South labours is not that she is wrongfully taxed by the Government; it is not slavery per se, but the great difference between the North and the South which has made two sections in the Union, and has raised a bitter rivalry between them. Sectional ambition has been added to interest and fanaticism, in bringing the North upon the South. It is very useless to endeavour to ignore this rivalry. Wherever republics have been united in a confederacy it has existed; and has been the grand cause of their dissolution. I assert, with fear of contradiction, that never before has there existed, in any confederacy, ancient or modern, a more powerful combination of rival interests and feelings than those which now exist in the United States between the two great sections of the Union. The combination of motives thus resulting from interest, fanaticism and rivalry, must work out their natural consequences. They drive the North upon the South with a certainty as ushering the last of spoils and plunders carried the northern bodies of Europe, in former times, down upon the plains of Italy.

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pick-pockets of Old England! "Go, vilest of the living viles," out of all union with communities of decent origin, and following your true natural and moral affinities, seek your real kindred and political fraternities with those whose fathers were turned from the ocean-path which you took and founded their "chivalrous" colonies in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land. Go to Rodney Bay, with your hereditary lawlessness, violence and murders, thievish propensities, and stains no longer the character of that true and noble-descended free American people who have too long endured the loathsome connection with you.

Go, hereditary outcasts! Go with the joyful assent of 100,000 men of the countrymen of FISHES A.

#### RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF MR. BUCHANAN.

From the N. Y. Observer.

The following letter will be read with equal interest by the friends and opponents of Mr. Buchanan. It is written by a well-known clergymen in Philadelphia in reply to a note of inquiry from this city.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 8, 1856.

REV. AND DEAR SIR: Your note of inquiry was duly received, and I take pleasure in saying that you were correctly informed as to my acquaintance with Mr. Buchanan, the President elect, and of my favourable opinion of his moral and religious character.

I became personally acquainted with him in the Spring of 1842, in the city of Washington, at which time he was, I think, a member of the U. S. Senate; and when introduced to him, I found him with a Bible in his hand, and our first conversation was with reference to the Divine authenticity of that Book; in which he most unequivocally expressed his firm belief—he not knowing me to be a clergymen at the time.

My much loved father, now deceased, who knew Mr. Buchanan most intimately for many years, and who was associated with him in the 27th Congress, always spoke of him as a man of the strictest Christian morality, and cherished for him an undying affection.

Mr. Buchanan is of Presbyterian ancestry, and I am informed that he has a pew in each of the Presbyterian Churches in Lancaster, though I believe that he generally attends the Second Church, of which the Rev. Alfred Nevins, D. D., is the pastor, and is said to be very regular and devout in public worship, and, being very catholic in spirit, he is accustomed to worship with Christians of other denominations when opportunity offers.

I have been informed by one of the settled ministers of Lancaster that Mr. Buchanan is believed by those who know him best to be a Christian—that he has an hour each day set apart for the study of the Scriptures and devotion—that he makes "Jay's Morning and Evening Exercises" his daily companion, and it is a matter of wonder and regret with many of his intimate friends that he, like too many of our public men, has so long neglected and given up the public profession of his faith. In conversations which I have had with him, he more than once expressed with great tenderness and feeling his desire for retirement from the duties and care of public life—the importance of a due preparation for his last, and final account, and his unwavering confidence in the gracious and overruling providence of Almighty God. That he may have an interest in the prayers of the pious, and that his administration may be just what might be expected from his unstained moral character, his great experience, and universally acknowledged statesmanship, should be the earnest desire of every truly patriotic heart.

I have thus promptly answered your inquiries, and frankly communicated what I know and believe concerning our Chief Magistrate elect, and feel entirely justified in so doing, because of the very natural and reasonable anxiety so generally felt concerning the moral and religious principles of one called to fill a station of such prominence and influence. Yours fraternally,

To the Rev. Dr. \* \* \* \*

From The New York Tribune.

The papers announced a little while ago that President Pierce had provided for a Concord clergyman, who, about the time of his election, had given him a certificate of "good moral and religious character" by appointing the giver of that certificate to a chaplaincy, pensionary, or something else in the Navy. The success of this certifying clergyman has not been lost on the watchful brethren. A similar certificate to the good moral and religious character of Mr. Buchanan has just made its appearance in *The New York Observer*, in the shape of a letter stated to come from a well-known clergymen of Philadelphia. According to this letter, Mr. Buchanan is a patriot indeed. "Others have risked their lives for their country, he risks his salvation." In conversations which I have had with him, "says the distinguished" clergymen in Philadelphia, "he more than once expressed with great tenderness"—we did not know before that Mr. Buchanan was so much of a wag—"his desire of retirement from the destined care of public life—the importance of a close preparation for his last account." Certainly, the pious readers of *The Observer*, especially those in Pennsylvania, by voting for Buchanan have interfered with these pious wishes, and helped to expose him to the fresh trials and temptations of the Presidency, have assumed a fearful responsibility. It is true that this eminent clergymen calls upon the pious, now that Mr. Buchanan is elected, to give him an interest in their prayers; but we fear it will be found a far easier matter to vote him into temptation, peril and sin, than to pray him out of it. Prayers put up for a President elected on such a platform, and coming into office with such surroundings as Mr. Buchanan, will put us in mind of prayers for the dead, in which, as good Protestants, we are presumed not to believe.

We hope that the confidence expressed by this eminent clerical correspondent of *The Observer* in Mr. Buchanan's good administration of the Government may prove well-founded; yet it is hardly safe to overlook the distinction which Mr. Buchanan himself takes between his character, conduct and opinions as a man and those which he assumes as a politician and a President. As a citizen, his moral character may be unblushed. As a citizen of Lancaster, on the strength of his owning a pew in each

the Presbyterian church, and his regular and devout attendance—not to offend anybody—upon all the churches in the place, he may pass muster as being "very catholic in spirit"; on the strength of the hour which he is said to set aside every day for the study of the Scriptures and the use of "Jay's Morning and Evening Exercises," he may be put down as a Christian in spite of his neglect provocative of the "wonder and regret" of *The Observer*'s correspondent, to "unite with the Church by a public profession"—for how could he do that without risking the displeasure and perhaps the sectarian hostility of those whose church he did not unite with? As a man, Mr. Buchanan may be all this; as a President, he is said to be to exactly what the nominating Convention chose to have him. In his letter accepting the nomination, he makes no reference either to the Scriptures, Jay's "Morning and Evening Exercises," or to his own sense of right and wrong; he sinks everything in the Cincinnati Platform.

We need not repeat what we regard Mr. Buchanan's or Mr. Anybody's religious views and tendencies as of purely personal concern—a matter entirely between the individual and his Creator. We feel sure that Mr. B. must be annoyed and disgusted by this officious attempt to make for him a religious character to which he has never laid claim. It is a burning shame that courts and office-seekers can be found to write, even for *The Observer*, such articles as that on which we are commenting; and we trust Mr. Buchanan will not follow the bad example of Mr. Pierce by giving his eulogist an appointment. Mr. B. was elected without any very definite religious character; whereas Gen. Pierce seemed four times and more ago, to stand badly in head of one; which Mr. Buchanan did not, having been already elected without any.

MRS. STOWE'S "DRED."

From the Westminster Review.

At length we have Mrs. Stowe's new novel, and for the last three weeks there have been men, women and children reading it with rapt attention—laughing and sobbing over its scenes of love and tenderness, and rude heroism, and glowing with indignation at its terrible representation of chartered barbarity. The book is an uncontrovertible and reservations—who complain that Mrs. Stowe's plot is too long and too full of hymns and religious eloquence, and pursuing a strain along the magnates of Clermont, the paper has given a full account of the law of Virginia imposing a fine of \$200 on any Postmaster for delivering incendiary mail matter. Mr. Hart thereupon applied to the Postmaster-General, who, by performance of his duty, wrote to the Clermont deputy that he must deliver. This caused a tremendous stir among the magnates of Clermont, and the paper has given a full account of the same; and it seems, made felony by the statutes of Virginia, is not in possession or reading incendiary documents, but circulating or carrying or procuring them to be circulated; and as Mr. Hart merely took his paper from the Post-Office and read it at home, his case did not seem to come under that provision. The evidence upon which the first indictment was found was, that he had asked some of his neighbours to form a club with him for taking *The Tribune*, but as no such club was actually formed, it was plain that this evidence was not sufficient.

We come now to the indictment actually found and now pending, which is in the words and figures following:

"In the Circuit Court of Harrison County, on their oaths, present that before us, on the 5th day of July, in the year 1856, and from time to time thereafter, the said Mr. Hart, did, willfully, and with intent to do, print, and publish and cause to be written, printed and published weekly in the City of New York and State of New York, a book and newspaper, and public journal, styled and entitled 'The New York Tribune,' and that the said book and newspaper in the State of New York, was to advise and incite negroes in this State to rebel and insurrection, and to incite resistance to the rights of property of negroes in this State, and to advise and incite negroes in this State to do violence to the said negroes."

"And the Juries, the twelve of them, present, do further present that the said Horace Greeley, on the 5th day of July, in the year 1856, did, knowingly, unlawfully and feloniously circulate and read with delight over its exquisite landscapes, and glowing with indignation at its terrible representation of chartered barbarity, a book which is an uncontrovertible and reservations—who complain that Mrs. Stowe's plot is too long and too full of hymns and religious eloquence, and pursuing a strain along the magnates of Clermont, the paper has given a full account of the law of Virginia imposing a fine of \$200 on any Postmaster for delivering incendiary mail matter. Mr. Hart thereupon applied to the Postmaster-General, who, by performance of his duty, wrote to the Clermont deputy that he must deliver. This caused a tremendous stir among the magnates of Clermont, and the paper has given a full account of the same; and it seems, made felony by the statutes of Virginia, is not in possession or reading incendiary documents, but circulating or carrying or procuring them to be circulated; and as Mr. Hart merely took his paper from the Post-Office and read it at home, his case did not seem to come under that provision. The evidence upon which the first indictment was found was, that he had asked some of his neighbours to form a club with him for taking *The Tribune*, but as no such club was actually formed, it was plain that this evidence was not sufficient.

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